

Southern Connecticut State University
FACULTY SENATE

APPROVED MINUTES OF APRIL 29, 2020

<https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings>

The 13th meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2019-2020 was held on April 29, 2020, at 12:10 p.m. via WebEx.

Attendance

Dave Allen <i>Accounting</i> 9/13	Matthew Ouimet <i>Counseling</i> 12/13	Sandip Dutta <i>Finance</i> 7/13	Robert Forbus <i>Marketing</i> 9/13	David Pettigrew <i>Philosophy</i> 10/13	Angela Lopez-Velasquez <i>Special Education</i> 11/13
William Farley <i>Anthropology</i> 9/13	Natalie Starling <i>Counseling & School Psychology</i> 13/13	Peter Latchman <i>Health & Movement Sciences</i> 11/13	Joe Fields <i>Mathematics</i> 12/13	Binlin Wu <i>Physics</i> 8/13	Douglas Macur <i>Theatre</i> 9/13
Jeff Slomba <i>Art</i> 12/13	Beena Achhpal <i>Curriculum & Learning</i> 9/13	Robert Gregory <i>Health & Movement Sciences</i> 12/13	Klay Kruczek <i>Mathematics</i> 13/13	Jon Wharton <i>Political Science</i> 11/13	Luke Eilderts <i>World Languages & Literatures</i> 13/13
Kevin Siedlecki <i>Athletics</i> 12/12	Maria Diamantis <i>Curriculum & Learning</i> 12/13	Tom Radice <i>History</i> 13/13	Jonathan Irving* <i>Music</i> 0/13	Michael Nizhnikov* <i>Psychology</i> 9/13	
Sarah Crawford <i>Biology</i> 10/13	Dushmantha Jayawickreme <i>Earth Science</i> 13/13	Darcy Kern <i>History</i> 8/13	Frances Penny <i>Nursing</i> 12/13	Kate Marsland <i>Psychology</i> 12/13	Deborah Weiss <i>Faculty Senate President</i> 13/13
Mina Park <i>Business Information Systems</i> 10/13	Sanja Grubacic <i>Economics</i> 10/13	Yan Liu <i>Information & Library Science</i> 7/13	Joanne Roy <i>Nursing</i> 5/5	William Faraclas <i>Public Health</i> 12/13	Cindy Simoneau <i>Undergraduate Curriculum Forum</i> 12/13
Jeff Webb <i>Chemistry</i> 13/13	Peter Madonia <i>Educational Leadership</i> 6/13	Jerry Dunklee <i>Journalism</i> 13/13	Obiageli Okwuka* <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 11/13	Michael Dodge <i>Recreation, Tourism & Sport Management</i> 11/13	Cynthia O'Sullivan <i>Graduate Council</i> 8/13
Barbara Cook <i>Communication Disorders</i> 13/13	Mike Shea <i>English</i> 12/13	Parker Fruehan <i>Library Services</i> 13/13	VACANT <i>Part-time Faculty</i>	Paul Levatino <i>Social Work</i> 11/13	Aidan Coleman <i>Student Government Association</i> 10/13
Derek Taylor <i>Communication, Media & Screen Studies</i> 12/13	Paul Petrie <i>English</i> 13/13	Jacqueline Toce <i>Library Services</i> 13/13	Mary Ellen Minichiello* <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 8/13	Stephen Monroe Tomczak <i>Social Work</i> 13/13	Dr. Joe Bertolino <i>SCSU President</i>
Mohammad T. Islam <i>Computer Science</i> 7/13	Matthew Miller <i>Environment, Geography & Marine Studies</i> 13/13	Carol Stewart <i>Management, International Business & Public Utilities</i> 9/13	Walter Stutzmann <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 12/13	Cassi Meyerhoffer* <i>Sociology</i> 2/5	
<u>Guests:</u> R. Prezant (Provost) S. Bullmer (Dean, HHS)	I. Crawford (AA) E. Durnin (Dean, BUS) S. Hegedus (Dean, EDU)	M. Kingan (VP IA) M. Vancour (HHS) B. Kalk (Dean, A&S)	H. Marx (EDU) T. Tyree (VP SA) C. Perugini (IT)	T. Brolliar (IT) M. Singh (Dean, Grad)	B. Zamfir (Ed/Assistive Tech)

An asterisk denotes an absence. Overall attendance recorded below each member.

Faculty Senate President D. Weiss called meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

- I. Announcements
 - A. D. Pettigrew: FASP will have its final meeting of the semester next week.
 - B. W. Faraclas: Commended D. Weiss on her work as Faculty Senate President.
 - C. A. Coleman: On behalf of the SGA, thanked Faculty Senate for its work. Shared that elections are finished, and a new executive board will be announced shortly.
 - D. M. Diamantis: Commended A. Coleman on his work as SGA representative.

- II. Minutes of the previous meeting held on April 1, 2020 were accepted as distributed.
<https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings>

- III. President's Report: <https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings>

- IV. Standing Committees: No additional reports

- V. New Business
 - A. Faculty Senate Executive committee **moved to approve the Resolution Regarding Course Delivery via Distance Learning.**
 - i. Vote tally
 - 1. Yes 41
 - 2. No..... 1
 - ii. Motion to approve the resolution **passes.**
 - B. Faculty Senate Executive committee **moved to approve the Resolution Regarding Faculty Title Terminology.**
 - i. M. Shea **moved to call the previous question. Motion seconded.**
 - 1. Vote tally
 - a. Yes 35
 - b. No 10
 - 2. Motion to call the previous question **passes.**
 - ii. Vote tally
 - 1. Yes 25
 - 2. No..... 18
 - iii. Motion to approve the resolution **passes.**
 - C. D. Weiss initiated a discussion on extending decision-making powers to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee over the summer.
 - i. Concerns: Many important decisions will need to be made during the summer. How best to involve faculty while also respecting their time off contract? In addition to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, what other members/stakeholders might participate? SGA? UCF? Chairs of Council of Chairs?
 - D. D. Weiss initiated discussion on the resolution regarding Reassigned Time for Research.
 - i. Concerns: Duration of the resolution and impact on future administrators; creation of a two-tiered faculty; research and its impact on student learning, recruitment, and retention; impact on small departments.

- VI. 2+2 Ad Hoc Committee Final Report (B. Cook & J. Wharton)
 - A. See committee documents below.

VII. Adjournment

A. M. Shea **moved to adjourn the meeting.** Motion **seconded.**

B. Adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

L. Eilderts
Secretary

Resolution Regarding Course Delivery via Distance Learning

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

RESOLUTION REGARDING COURSE DELIVERY VIA DISTANCE LEARNING

Whereas, Southern Connecticut State University exists for the primary purpose of furthering academic excellence; and

Whereas, The SCSU Faculty Senate is the official representative body of the Academic Faculty; and

Whereas, The extenuating emergency circumstances caused by COVID-19 have resulted in closure of the SCSU campus and changes in the way pedagogy and routine business are being conducted during Spring 2020; and

Whereas; The stopgap distance learning being utilized during Spring 2020 on an emergency basis is being misconstrued and promoted by some as representative of higher education online learning, while it is not representative of best practices of cohesive, well-designed, effective online courses or programs, which require a significant amount of training, planning, and resources, and which need to be matched to learning needs of students; and

Whereas; The student population at Southern, particularly the undergraduate student population which comprises the vast majority of students, has selected Southern in order to benefit from its on-ground classes, interactions with other students, professors, and other personnel, as well as a campus experience, internships, and field experiences, such as student teaching; and

Whereas; The abrupt shift to distance learning has resulted in reports of many students who are struggling with the medium of distance learning for a variety of reasons; and

Whereas; Some universities are utilizing this occasion to make future curricular decisions regarding course and program delivery that undermine the typical decision-making process that recognizes the faculty purview over curriculum; and

Whereas; The Collective Bargaining Agreement states that "The department shall have responsibility for the content and development of courses, curriculum and programs of study within its discipline, ..." (CBA, 5.17); and

Whereas; Some faculty have been informed that if they wish to teach a section of a particular course, they can only do so if they offer the course in an online format; and

Whereas; Decisions regarding method of course or program delivery are complex and require thoughtfulness and consideration of many factors, including the needs and desires of students, determination of the optimal educational environment for different groups of students, available resources, and mission and reputation of the institution; therefore be it

Resolved, That current efforts to provide distance learning for all course delivery shall be recognized as a temporary measure to deal with the exigent demands of campus closure and not as a replacement on a permanent basis of how Southern has delivered its courses and programs up until

this time; and be it further

Resolved, That complying with a particular mode of course delivery not be required for a faculty member to receive approval to offer a particular course or section of a course; nor that faculty members be given priority to offer a particular course or section of a course based upon mode of course delivery; and be it further

Resolved, That prior to enacting any overarching changes to our courses and program delivery methods, thoughtful consideration by the faculty through its representative governance body is necessary to study and compare learning outcomes for different kinds of students in a variety of instructional formats; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate will continue its study and discussions of online learning, that began in Spring 2020, during the Fall 2020 semester.

Resolution Regarding Faculty Title Terminology

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION FOR FACULTY TITLE TERMINOLOGY

Whereas, Southern Connecticut State University exists for the primary purpose of furthering academic excellence; and

Whereas, Academic excellence relies on all faculty members' engagement in the rights, privileges, and obligations associated with their earned degrees and professional identity; and

Whereas, Professional identity is recognized and supported by the respectful use of appropriate titles; and

Whereas, All members of the faculty are evaluated on identical categories of professional performance, based on the singular criterion of academic excellence, and therefore are expected to perform their duties equitably, regardless of their length of service at SCSU; and

Whereas, The Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) distinguishes faculty titles only by rank and tenure status; and

Whereas, Designating faculty members as "junior" and "senior" ignores the equality of status (represented by rights, privileges and obligations) granted and required by the CBA, creates artificial classes of faculty members, and is divisive; and

Whereas, The Faculty Senate is the official governing body for shared governance, which requires equity in the treatment of all members of the faculty; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That only those faculty titles specified in the CBA shall be used in official university documents and communications; and be it further

Resolved, That faculty titles not specified in the CBA (e.g., "senior", "mid-level", "junior", etc.) shall be removed from official university documents and communications; and be it further

Resolved, That henceforth the use of the terms "junior faculty" and "senior faculty" shall be discouraged and avoided in all University contexts.

2+2 Ad Hoc Committee

Committee Members:

Co-Chairs: Jonathan Wharton (PSC) and Barbara Cook (CMD),
Cindy Simoneau (Journalism and UCF Chair) (Secretary),
Craig Hlavac (Associate Dean of College of Arts and Sciences)
James Simon (Adjunct JRN Faculty)
Pamela Mikaelian (Office of Accounting)
Frank LaDore (Director of Office of Transfer Students)
Aidan Coleman (Student Government Association)

1. Overall description of the purpose, intent, and overarching framework of a 2+2 Program between the Connecticut Community Colleges (CT CCs) and Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU):

The purpose of this 2 + 2 program between SCSU and one or more CT CCs is to develop a program that would afford students the capability of finishing a bachelor's degree on their community college campus. The intent is to support students who lack the capability of attending one of the 4 CSU 4-year institutions. The plan would be to develop partnerships to meet the needs of the community colleges as they work to support the students from their varied communities. Each community college contacted has reported the challenges faced by some students in regard to physically attending one of the 4 CSU 4 -year Universities due to personal situations and to reliance on public transportation, which can lack flexibility and/or be inconsistent.

The planned program would result in a 120-credit program developed in collaboration between SCSU and any one or more of the CT CCs, with 63 credits offered and owned by the CT CC and 57 credits offered and owned by SCSU. This approach would fall below the 50% threshold requiring BOR or NECHE major change requirements.

2. Based on the Western Connecticut State University and Northwestern Community College partnership, their Memo Of Understanding allows for one program (Management) and 3 classes to begin in fall 2020. This includes night and online classes. Both collaborate to recruit and hire adjunct instructors to teach the 300 and 400 level courses. Any classes being taught on the Northwestern campus are NOT subject to classroom rental costs (something to consider between SCSU and CCs).
3. Feasibility of SCSU engaging in this type of partnership with the CT CC's
 - a. The following highlights the outcomes of meetings between this Adhoc Committee and representatives of select SCSU departments and programs. While some were self-selected based on an expressed interest in investigating and pursuing a collaboration of this nature, others were invited based on potential student interest identified by members of this committee and representatives from the CT CCs. We include the perceived strengths and challenges as opportunities for growth should the collaboration in one of these programs be pursued.

- I. Early Childhood Education (reported by Adam Goldberg, Chair of Curriculum and Learning)
 - i. Strengths: Strong interest and currently have some courses online and could add additional online courses; the course EDU 200 has been successfully taught at Housatonic
 - ii. Opportunities for Growth: Aligning requirements related to the teaching certification component
- II. Sports Management (reported by Jim McGregor, Chair of Recreation, Tourism, & Sport Management and Kevin McGinnis, Sports Management)
 - i. Strengths: Strong interest and currently in conversation with both Housatonic and Gateway with a draft planned program to increase transfer students to SCSUs program. Additional interest with faculty at Norwalk and Northwestern. Prepared to offer completely online or at the CCs.
 - ii. Opportunity for growth: The currently drafted planned program could be revised to meet the 63 CC/57 SCSU credit ratio requirement of this program.
- III. Psychology (reported by Kelly Stiver, Associate Professor in Psychology)
 - i. Strengths: Moderately interested. Currently, many transfer students can complete the general BA in Psychology in 2 years. Appears to work on paper. Possible to increase offering of online courses provided limit of 25 students in these courses. Cohort model is doable and likely best.
 - ii. Opportunity for growth: Research methods course is the greatest challenge; resource of faculty to teach the core 300 and 400 level courses would need to be supported. Concern regarding research spaces and ability of students to participate in research experiences.
- IV. Sociology (reported by Jessica Kenty-Drane, Chair of Sociology)
 - i. Strengths: Cautiously interested given student interest and increased growth in the SCSU program.
 - ii. Opportunity for growth: Very challenged with teaching resources (i.e., currently have about 316 majors with 4 Full Time Faculty). Additional concern regarding ability to offer ample choices in course offerings and scheduling and unsure of ability to offer the same opportunity of choice in courses at the CC as it does at SCSU
- V. Business (Janet Phillips, Chair, Department of Accounting)
 - i. Strengths: Moderately interested and continues to be interested in offering a course at the CCs, such as Accounting 310 to draw interest to the SCSU program.
 - ii. Opportunities for Growth: Currently, the School of Business is prepping for accreditation review. As a specific program,

Accounting has many pre-requisites and unsure how they would be able to meet the 51%/49% ratio. Suggested reaching out to Marketing and Management.

- VI. Computer Science (Lisa Lancor)
 - i. Strengths: Possibility of data sciences as collaboration between Computer Science and Math departments; many insurance and financial firms interested in data science majors and minors. Some conversation with Norwalk CC regarding future possibilities.
 - ii. Opportunities for Growth: Ratio of number of students to faculty results in a need to increase faculty to accommodate this type of program.

- b. Strong student need and interest was indicated from the representatives of the following community colleges. Each offered strong support of the changes made by SCSU in the support of transfer students and many reported the success of the TAP degree programs, however, many students are challenged with attending the 4-year universities. Collectively, they suggest that these TAP degrees might be used to create SCSU degree programs on the CC campus. Each CC reported the challenges some students have with accessing and attending Universities here in CT. The issues relate to transportation (public transportation is not always easily accessed, reliable, nor flexible enough to accommodate schedules), family situations, comfort with the smaller CC setting, to name a few. Each CT CC shared the specific degree programs of interest for their location.
 - I. Housatonic (Elizabeth Steeves, Randy Sanders, Transfer Counselor, & Shelly Tomey, Early Childhood Coordinator)
 - i. Degree programs of interest: Nursing, Social Work, Early Childhood Education, Business, Sports Management, Pathways to teaching, Psychology, General Studies
 - II. Gateway (Lauren Doninger, Psychology and Transfer Ticket Program)
 - i. Degree programs of interest: Business, Public Health, Psychology, Liberal Studies
 - III. Norwalk (Cathy Miller, Director of Counseling and Orlando Soto, Transfer Counselor)
 - i. Degree programs of interest: Business, Liberal Arts, Early Childhood Education, Criminal Justice, Psychology
 - IV. Naugatuck Valley (Susan Houlihan, Adviser & Retention Specialist; Bonnie Goulet, Director of Student Development Services; & Sarah Gager, Dean of Student Services)
 - i. Degree programs of interest: Business, Pathways to teaching, Biology, Health Studies
 - V. Northwestern (David Ferreira, Dean of Academic and Student Affairs)

and faculty) to begin the actual process of instituting partnerships between community colleges, SCSU and various departments. These teams should arrange:

- I. meetings between faculty of SCSU and of the CT CC counterpart to design degree program. Use TAP pathways when possible and emphasis on receipt of the associate degree prior to beginning SCSU portion of the bachelor degree requirements.
- II. meetings between faculty and administration from SCSU and CT CC counterpart to determine ways to meet course instruction resource needs, space, enrollment components, student fees beyond tuition to allow for access to needed student services such as disability resource, counseling, health services, academic success center.
- III. meetings that include faculty and/or administration from graduate studies for programs that may have, or be developing, 4 + 1 programs that might be adaptable to being provided on the CC campus.